Eden0032 is February 2020’s Xbox Ambassador of the Month!

Community Mister Taxel Jan 30, 2020

Xbox Ambassadors, say congratulations to February 2020’s Xbox Ambassador of the Month – Eden0032! Eden0032 is a longtime Ambassador whose involvement in this community dates all the way back to the Beta season in 2012. His passion for gaming, however, goes back even further. Read on to learn more about Eden0032’s journey as a gamer!

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When it comes to Eden0032’s motivations for originally joining and now continuing being an Xbox Ambassador, he’s all about community and helping other gamers.

“I joined as an Xbox Ambassador in September 2012. It was the result of a question I asked on the Xbox Forums and was answered by an Xbox Ambassador (unfortunately I can’t remember either the question or the Ambassador who responded). I researched the Xbox Ambassador program and decided to apply based on the ability to help people from around the world.

Over the years, the program has changed considerably, with the Ambassabank, Ambassadors on Twitter, Alpha Ambassadors … and the introduction of seasons. It’s great to see that a lot of the Ambassadors who

were around in the early days of the program are still here, and I guess for me that's one of the reasons I stick around in the program. I love the community as the Ambassadors are a group of people I can chat to about similar passions: Xbox. I'm also passionate about helping others, and have helped thousands of gamers around the world as an Ambassador…"

Like many other longtime Ambassadors, Eden has found that the ways he contributes to the community have evolved over time.

"To me, staying involved in the Ambassador Program isn't just about responding to Forum posts, using Twitter and earning XP. Actually, it's very unlikely that you'll see me on the Ambassador Leaderboard, unless you look towards the very bottom! I prefer to reach out to the community in a different way: through chat on Xbox Live, charity events and streams, social media and more recently by bringing Ambassadors together for in-person events at the Flagship Microsoft Store in London (more on that later). None of these have XP or physical rewards, but personal emotional rewards that make me feel good about the impact I'm having on other gamers and Ambassadors."

One of the things we admire most about Eden is his relentless positivity in every conversation and encounter we have had with him – not just about Xbox Ambassadors, but when it comes to gaming and Xbox as a whole.

"I have so many positive gaming experiences, from hosting charity streams to organising Ambassador events here in the UK. But one of my favourite gaming experiences was actually playing PUBG. I was in a party with THEEDGE1970 and some other folk; a year of playing had passed and I'd still not won a 'Chicken Dinner'. We were playing a Duo match and Edge was streaming to his Mixer channel. Despite an early death on his part (leaving me to do all the hard work), the reaction when I actually achieved a Chicken Dinner was one to remember, considering that the PUBG HypeZone had joined for the last part of the game!

More recently, I gifted my Uncle a new Xbox One S All-Digital Edition for Christmas, something he was not expecting at all. After setting it up with him and enjoying a few matches on FIFA 20, I still remain unbeaten to this date!"

While positivity in gaming is a huge part of what it means to be an Xbox Ambassador, we're always looking to build and maintain healthy communities as well. We asked Eden for his viewpoint on what a healthy community looks like, and how he personally contributes to that.

"To me, a healthy community is one that contains members who communicate friendly and effectively with each other, help each other when others need assistance, and above all have a positive impact on the wider community. Being an Xbox Ambassador, I contribute to the community by helping gamers from around the world via Twitter and the Xbox Forums, remaining positive on social media in regards to the Xbox brand, help the wider community by running charity streams and events, and bring Xbox Ambassadors closer through in-store events. This is what I love about the Xbox Ambassadors Program – the freedom to participate in a variety of ways!"

Beyond gaming and our community specifically, there's a whole lot more to Eden and the ways he spends his time!

"Outside of gaming, I live a very busy life. At the time of writing, I'm a primary school teacher with a class of 7 year old children who are learning a wide range of subjects. However, this is soon to change as I will shortly be starting my training for a currently undisclosed public service role, which you can probably guess!

When relaxing, I enjoy coarse fishing at a local lake. But my favourite sport has got to be football, and I am a keen supporter of Reading Football Club."

He's also active in his support of Special Effect, a UK-based charity organization who have made a significant impact on accessibility in gaming.

"One thing a lot of you will know about me is that I am a supporter of Special Effect, a charity that helps gamers who suffer with a wide range of physical disabilities that inhibit their ability to enjoy video games. Having met the team from Special Effect a number of times, including at their stands at EGX and X019, I have become familiar with the work they do and the equipment they use. I started raising money for the charity exactly 5 years ago through an annual streaming event called GameBlast (2016). Prior to this, I'd heard about their work through a gaming friend and wanted to find out more. I was so inspired to help that I decided to participate in this charity streaming day. And from there it grew..."

Eden has raised funds for Special Effect through a variety of GameBlast charity streams over the years, and he also produces and sells handmade Gamertag keyrings, donating 100% of the profits to Special Effect. If you're interested helping him to support their work, keep an eye on his Twitter for details regarding an upcoming GameBlast stream that he expects to be his

biggest yet (and it'll be streamed from the Mixer Studio at the Microsoft Store in London!)

Speaking of the Microsoft Store in London, Eden0032 and another Ambassador (WhiteandShiny) have collaborated a couple of times now on community meetups hosted at that store. He described one of those below, and also recapped it on the Xbox Ambassadors Community Blog. These have prompted questions from other community members around how they could set up a meetup of their own, and we asked if we had any advice on that front.

"A couple of years ago, a message went out to Ambassadors who might be interested in running events at their local Microsoft Stores. At the time, this was targeted to US Ambassadors as there were no stores here in the UK. Since the flagship store opened in London, I was in contact with the Xbox Ambassador team about setting up and running Ambassador Meetup events to bring the community together and enjoy gaming all in one room. The Gaming Lounge at the Microsoft Store is the perfect place to do this, with a number of fantastic console setups and the ability to stream from the Mixer Studio next door. Being surrounded by Xbox Ambassadors, Microsoft staff and loads of consoles (each loaded with Xbox Game Pass Ultimate) was an amazing feeling – some Ambassadors travelled far and wide to attend. This gave them the opportunity to meet those they'd been playing with online and speaking to on social media and discord, as well as participate in some cool challenges like the Forza Laptime Challenge.

My advice for Ambassadors looking to set up similar events is to get to know the team at your local Microsoft Store and find another local Xbox Ambassador who is willing to help with the event – I would certainly not have been able to organise and host these events without the help from managers and staff from the store, staff from Xbox Ambassadors in Redmond and Rob (aka Whiteandshiny) who co-hosts on the day. Once you've got to know everybody, then start formulating a plan of what you want the event to look like. By this, I mean what you want attendees to do when they arrive. Will there be any challenges, giveaways, streams, gaming sessions where you all compete in a mini-tournament? Then, and only then, would I contact the Xbox Ambassadors team and pitch the idea for the event."

As is now tradition with new Xbox Ambassadors of the Month, we asked Eden to offer a message to the rest of the Xbox Ambassadors community:

"*I'm greatly honoured to have been chosen as an Xbox Ambassador of the Month; I've enjoyed every minute of the program over the last 7 and a half years, and look forward to every minute in the future. I don't always have time to participate in the daily/weekly/monthly missions and certainly don't earn much XP or any rewards, but being an Xbox Ambassador isn't about the rewards. It's about that warm, fuzzy feeling you have inside after helping people and spreading the positivity of Xbox.* ***Whatever you do to participate in the Xbox Ambassador program, make it worthwhile, make it helpful and enjoy every minute of it. And above all, create a positive impact in the community.***"

We're very excited to have had the opportunity to share this spotlight of Eden0032 and his contributions so far the Xbox Ambassadors Program and the gaming community as a whole. If you haven't had a chance to meet him

yet, feel free to say hello and congratulations on Twitter, in our Discord, or over Xbox!

Do you know someone who would make a great Ambassador of the Month? Do you want us to have the opportunity to spotlight that person? Nominate them by letting us know why they deserve to be our next Xbox Ambassador of the Month!

The above was edited in part for clarity and narrative flow. For the full transcript of our Q&A With Eden0032, see the below!

How did gaming become one of your passions?

When I was a child, I used to visit grandparents who had an original SNES in their loft/attic. My brother and I would bring it down and plug it into the old-fashioned television and play games like Mario Kart and Super Mario Bros. Those were the days. Dare I say it, we also had access to a PlayStation 1 with entertainment from games such as Spryo and Driver (still one of my favourite historical video games). Moving onto the PS2, I vaguely remember the collection of demo discs we had, one game in particular aptly-titled "World's Greatest Police Chases". I guess, there's only so many times you can complete a demo. Fast forward a few years, and I was introduced to the Xbox 360 S 4gb console, alongside Project Gotham Racing 3 and Red Dead Redemption. The collection slowly grew and before I knew it, I would be coming home from school and hopping online with friends, playing games like Call of Duty: World at War (which was only rated a 15!). I consider myself to be a casual gamer, and enjoy playing online with friends.

What's your favorite game/series of all time, and why?

I'm going to have to pick 2 series here, I'm afraid. If you know me well, which some of you do, then you'll know I'm a big fan of the Call of Duty series. If I had to pick just one of the CoD games to be my favourite, I'd have to pick Modern Warfare 3 with it being so popular when I was at school (I'd spend a lot of evenings playing online with friends, and racked up nearly 2 months of playing time!).

The other series I'm a big fan of is Grand Theft Auto. The storyline is good, but I love the open world and freedom aspects of the game. With lots of driving and exploring to do, I find that I never get bored.

You've been an Ambassador for a long time now, and the program has changed a lot over the years. What brought you to the Xbox Ambassadors program and what makes you stay?

I joined as an Xbox Ambassador in September 2012. It was the result of a question I asked on the Xbox Forums and was answered by an Xbox Ambassador (unfortunately I can't remember either the question or the Ambassador who responded). I researched the Xbox Ambassador program and decided to apply based on the ability to help people from around the world. Back then, Skype was used to link Ambassadors with gamers needing help. Over the years, the program has changed considerable, with the Ambassabank, Ambassadors on Twitter, Alpha Ambassadors (check out who the Alpha Ambassadors are in their recent Ambassador of the Month spotlight: https://blog-ambassadors.xbox.com/ambassador-of-the-month-the-alpha-ambassadors/), and the introduction of seasons. It's great to see that a lot of the Ambassadors who were around in the early days of the program are still here, and I guess for me that's one of the reasons I stick around in the program. I love the community as the Ambassadors are a group of people I can chat to about similar passions: Xbox. I'm also passionate about helping others, and have helped thousands of gamers around the world as an Ambassador through the Ambassabank, Twitter and Forums.

How do you stay involved in the program and the community?

To me, staying involved in the Ambassador Program isn't just about responding to Forum posts, using Twitter and earning XP. Actually, it's very unlikely that you'll see me on the Ambassador Leaderboard, unless you look towards the very bottom! I prefer to reach out to the community in a different way: through chat on Xbox Live, charity events and streams, social media and more recently by bringing Ambassadors together for in-person events at the Flagship Microsoft Store in London (more on that later). None of these have XP or physical rewards, but personal emotional rewards that make me feel good about the impact I'm having on other gamers and Ambassadors.

What is your most positive gaming experience?

I have so many positive gaming experiences, from hosting charity streams to organising Ambassador events here in the UK. But one of my favourite gaming experiences was actually playing PUBG. I was in a party with THEEDGE1970 and some other folk; a year of playing had passed and I'd still not won a 'Chicken Dinner'. We were playing a Duo match and Edge was streaming to his Mixer channel. Despite an early death on his part (leaving me to do all the hard work), the reaction when I actually achieved a Chicken Dinner was one to remember, considering that the PUBG HypeZone had joined for the last part of the game!

More recently, I gifted my Uncle a new Xbox One S All-Digital Edition for Christmas, something he was not expecting at all. After setting it up with him and enjoying a few matches on FIFA 20, I still remain unbeaten to this date!

What does a healthy community look like to you and what do you do to contribute to that vision?

To me, a healthy community is one that contains members who communicate friendly and effectively with each other, help each other when others need assistance, and above all have a positive impact on the wider community. Being an Xbox Ambassador, I contribute to the community by helping gamers from around the world via Twitter and the Xbox Forums, remaining positive on social media in regards to the Xbox brand, help the wider community by running charity streams and events, and bring Xbox Ambassadors closer through in-store events. This is what I love about the Xbox Ambassadors Program – the freedom to participate in a variety of ways!

Tell us about your life outside of gaming. How do you spend your time when you're not on Xbox?

Outside of gaming, I live a very busy life. At the time of writing, I'm a primary school teacher with a class of 7 year old children who are learning a wide range of subjects. However, this is soon to change as I will shortly be starting my training for a currently undisclosed public service role, which you can probably guess!

When relaxing, I enjoy coarse fishing at a local lake. But my favourite sport has got to be football, and I am a keen supporter of Reading Football Club.

You've been working with Special Effect for a while now. What inspired you to start that effort, and can you tell us a bit about how you help them out?

One thing a lot of you will know about me is that I am a supporter of Special Effect, a charity that helps gamers who suffer with a wide range of physical disabilities that inhibit their ability to enjoy video games. Having met the team from Special Effect a number of times, including at their stands at EGX and X019, I have become familiar with the work they do and the equipment they use. I started raising money for the charity exactly 5 years ago through an annual streaming event called GameBlast (2016). Prior to this, I'd heard about their work through a gaming friend and wanted to find out more. I was so inspired to help that I decided to participate in this charity streaming day. And from there it grew...

- *February 2016 – GameBlast charity stream raises £219.83*

- *February 2017 – GameBlast charity stream rases £342.00*
- *February 2018 – GameBlast charity stream rases £169.00*
- *June 2018 – Opened GamertagKeyrings, selling handmade keyrings and bracelets, now with 100% of the profits going to Special Effect*
- *February 2019 – GameBlast charity stream rases £349.59*
- *January 2020 – GamertagKeyrings reaches £150 in profits for Special Effect.*
- *February 2020 – GameBlast charity stream scheduled for 15th February 2020.*

My GameBlast2020 charity stream will be the biggest yet, having been given support from Microsoft to stream from the Mixer Studio at the Microsoft Store in London, as well as plenty of giveaways from the team. The stream will take place on Saturday 15th February 2020, with details on my Twitter here: https://twitter.com/Eden0032/status/1214932340138528770

We've loved hearing about the meetups you scheduled at the Microsoft Store in London. What prompted you to set those up, and what advice would you give to other Ambassadors looking to set up similar events?

A couple of years ago, a message went out to Ambassadors who might be interested in running events at their local Microsoft Stores. At the time, this was targeted to US Ambassadors as there were no stores here in the UK. Since the flagship store opened in London, I was in contact with the Xbox Ambassador team about setting up and running Ambassador Meetup events to bring the community together and enjoy gaming all in one room. The Gaming Lounge at the Microsoft Store is the perfect place to do this, with a number of fantastic console setups and the ability to stream from the Mixer Studio next door. Being surrounded by Xbox Ambassadors, Microsoft staff and loads of consoles (each loaded with Xbox Game Pass Ultimate) was an amazing feeling – some Ambassadors travelled far and wide to attend. This gave them the opportunity to meet those they'd been playing with online and speaking to on social media and discord, as well as participate in some cool challenges like the Forza Laptime Challenge.

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As a new Ambassador of the Month, is there a message you want to share with the rest of the XA community?

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